DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Human Resources Committee

HRC-C-78-032 -SEE 6 APRIL
24 April 1978 DRAFT FILE 25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT: OSCOL Working Group

1.   (C)   As recommended by the Human Resources Committee, the D/DCI/CT has approved formation of an ad-hoc working group to examine a number of questions and issues relating to open source collection.   In the process, the working group is to focus on literature intelligence in particular, and expand on the work recently done in that field by an independent contractor,

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The undersigned has been designated to coordinate the activities of the working group, under the supervision of Chairman, Human Resources Committee.

2.   (C)   The working group will function to improve inter-action between those who collect and process open source information, and the users of the product, relative to on-going collection, production and analytical objectives.   Most of the problems, issues and opportunities in open source collection have been around for awhile, and require less definition than assistance toward positive action.   Some improvements may be feasible through interaction of working group members themselves.   Where a more formal community effort appears called for, the working group will staff the matter for consideration by the Human Resources Committee, or appropriate other elements.

3.   (C)   The open source collection arena is large, and the opportunities for improvement are very diverse.   It would be easy for the working group to become mired in detail very quickly. To prevent that, it is planned that the working group will remain small and highly flexible.   The working group as a body will address each of the several OSCOL topics, with individual members contributing in each case to the extent that they consider

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practical. The coordinator may suggest that a particular working group member orchestrate the action on a given topic, subject to group approval. In some cases the working group may opt to assemble a task force (from departmental expertise) to tackle a selected topic, or part thereof. In another case the working group may opt to hire an outside contractor to develop specific data. The role of working group members in such cases will be to ensure that a task force or an outside contractor is provided the access and information needed for the task at hand, and then to deliberate the results of those efforts.

4. (C) All recommendations for HRC or higher consideration will be formulated by the working group itself including options, pro and con argumentation and individual dissents, as the case may be. The coordinator will provide staff support to the latter activity and ensure proper vertical reporting by the working group. In due course the Chairman, HRC will propose an appropriate mechanism or structure within the Human Resources Committee to ensure that open source collection activities receive a full measure of representation and attention in the committee.

5. (C) Attached is a tentative list of working group members (subject to approval by Chairman, HRC), some suggested initial questions and issues for working group attention, and a copy of "Suggested Parameters of Open Source Collection" which has been given to HRC members for their consideration. You are invited to comment on these matters, formally or informally, and to indicate your interest in participating in these activities.

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Attachments:
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